

HONORING MS. MARY MORAN AND MS. VICTORIA METZ

• Mr. ROBB. Mr. President, I'm pleased to honor the service of Ms. Mary Moran and Ms. Victoria Metz, the outgoing Parent Teacher Association (PTA) co-presidents at the Arlington Traditional School, a public alternative elementary school in Arlington, Virginia.

For the past two years, both Mary Moran and Victoria Metz have dedicated themselves to educational achievement by assisting the students, parents, teachers and administration of Arlington Traditional School. They have appeared on numerous occasions before the Arlington County School Board to discuss educational issues and sustain support for the Arlington Traditional School. Ms. Moran and Ms. Metz have also frequently met with individual members of the School Board to answer questions and have reached out to other local PTA presidents.

During the tenure of Mary Moran and Victoria Metz as co-presidents, the Arlington Traditional School PTA has played an integral role in the following activities: Math Night, Science and Technology Night, the DARE Program for 5th Graders; Black History Month, Hispanic Heritage Month, Asian Pacific Heritage Month, Native American Month, the Fall Family Get-Together, Holiday Open House, Parent-Teacher Conference Luncheon and Dinner, Summer Reading Challenge, Back to School Night and Staff Appreciation Week. The PTA generously purchased computers for student use at the Arlington Traditional School.

Mary Moran and Victoria Metz were also responsible for the Arlington Traditional School PTA's outreach efforts into the community. The PTA made significant contributions to the Arlington Community Temporary Shelter, the Animal Welfare League of Arlington, UNICEF and the Red Cross's International Relief Fund.

Mary Moran and Victoria Metz have truly made a difference at the Arlington Traditional School. Their success illustrates that our public schools benefit and prosper when parents take active leadership roles in supporting education.●

A TRIBUTE TO THE BELLES OF INDIANA ON THEIR 45TH REUNION

• Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise before you today to recognize the Belles of Indiana who are celebrating their 45th Reunion this summer. The Belles of Indiana, a choral group comprised of Indiana University students, were the first singing group to perform overseas with the United Service Organizations (USO). The Belles entertained soldiers stationed in Japan and Korea, performing 75 shows in 77 days during the summer of 1955. Their voices and energy brought great joy to all those who heard them perform. These singers dis-

played strong patriotism for their country and acted as outstanding ambassadors from Indiana. I am pleased to submit their names for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD because of their great contributions to our soldiers and country.

I would like to commend the following members on their participation: Doris Day Block, Robert Bluemle, Vera Scammon Broughton, Dennis Escol, Roberta Ratliff Graham, Sondra Gauthier Harroff, Sally Graham Johnson, Helen Rapp Neffkens, Sandra Pawol Overack, Carolyn Hill Pain, Joyce Harrod Sakakini, Nancy Speed Schultz, Sue Ann Steeves, Cynthia Findley Stewart, Annabelle Baldrige Menguy, Sharlie Shull Stuart, Linda Foncannon Tucker, Ellen Dallas Wiggins, Mary Musgrave Wirts, Joyce Lancaster Voit, and Barbara Lockard Zimmerman. I would also like to recognize those members of the Belles of Indiana who are no longer with us: Eugene and Keitha Bayless, (Choral Director and his wife), Mary Mauer, Irma Batley Corcoran, Mary Sinclair Baron, and Joan Drew Irwin.

I am pleased to pay tribute to these great Americans whose positive attitude and high energy boosted morale for our overseas troops. The history of America is replete with stories of its sons and daughters being summoned and responding to their nation's call to duty. It is a proud history of accomplishment, honor, and victory. The Belles of Indiana answered their nation's call to duty and diligently persevered to be emissaries for the families and friends of servicemen who were far away from home.

I extend my congratulations to the Belles of Indiana for being the first entertainment group to travel and perform with the United Service Organization. I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring these courageous women and men for their valiant service to our country.●

IN HONOR OF JOSEPH A. MEZZO

• Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Mr. Joseph A. Mezzo of New Jersey and the 4th Regiment of the United States Marine Corps, whose gallant actions in 1937 prevented an already tumultuous conflict from destabilizing further. The 4th Marines were deployed near the Soochow Creek in China to diffuse tensions that emerged after Japanese forces penetrated Chinese boundaries. Further intensifying the situation, a Chinese officer killed two members of the Japanese military, creating a hostile climate that culminated in armed conflict. Amidst heavy gunfire from both Japanese and Chinese forces, Mr. Mezzo and the 4th Marine Regiment demonstrated tremendous fortitude and resolve as they assisted in the stabilizing of the Soochow Creek, halting

what could have been a major international battle.

After all other American forces returned home, the 4th Marines remained in the Soochow Creek, accepting an even greater challenge of returning a Chinese rice barge that had been captured by the Japanese to its rightful owner. Mr. Mezzo and his fellow Marines executed this risky maneuver, thereby diffusing a situation which could have added fuel to an already volatile situation. The 4th Marine Regiment courageously exhibited the Marine Corps standard of Semper Fidelis, which saving the lives of many people.

Although Mr. Mezzo and his comrades acted with bravery and selflessness, their efforts, and the efforts of many gallant veterans, have gone virtually unrewarded and unappreciated. While their exploits may not be found in history books, the services with which these veterans have provided our country are invaluable. I would like to recognize Mr. Mezzo, the 4th Marine Regiment, and all veterans who have risked their lives for the welfare of our country. Their willingness to accept these dangerous missions is a testament to their senses of duty, honor and patriotism. For this, I salute our veterans to whom we own a debt of gratitude and our ceaseless appreciation, for they exemplify what it means to be American.●

VIRGINIA TECH'S CLASS OF 2000

• Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, yesterday, I inserted into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the speeches of two graduates from Virginia Tech University who addressed their class during its commencement ceremonies last month. During the commencement ceremony, at which I had the privilege of also speaking with the Class of 2000, I listened to the eloquent and inspiring speeches of three Virginia Tech students, Class President Lauren Esleek, Graduate Student Representative Timothy Wayne Mays, and Class Treasurer Rush K. Middleton. Yesterday, I inserted Ms. Esleek's and Mr. Middleton's speeches into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I have now obtained a copy of Mr. Mays' speech, and it is my pleasure to ask that a copy of his speech also be printed in the RECORD.

GRADUATION SPEECH BY TIMOTHY WAYNE MAYS

Good morning. I'd like to begin with a brief story that I recently read that illustrates the theme of my message today. A successful business executive and former University of Alabama football player was asked "what was the first thing coach Paul Bear Bryant said to you and the other scholarship athletes after arriving on campus." Surprisingly, at the first team meeting, Coach Bryant asked the group "Have you called your folks yet to thank them?" After hearing those words, the players looked confused—most had their mouths open. They